

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, REHABILITATION AND REENTRY

COVID-19 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

March 25, 2020

(Phoenix)— In response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, ADCRR will immediately pull back all off-site, work crews until national and local public health experts consider the COVID-19 virus no longer a threat. The female crew working at Hickman's Family Farm will be temporarily housed on-site and away from the Perryville prison.

The Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry has been a proud partner with Hickman's Family Farm for 25 years. This partnership provides job skills for offenders. It also ensures a stable supply of Hickman's eggs for Arizona's communities. Food products, such as eggs, have been determined nationally to be a part of our nation's critical infrastructure.

ADCRR and Hickman's have partnered on a plan to temporarily house approximately 140 female inmates onsite at Hickman's for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency to control the potential spread of COVID-19 to thousands of other inmates. The inmates have already been working each day at Hickman's under ADCRR and Hickman's supervision.

"Many of these women inmates perform critical tasks related to the raising of baby chicks. Besides daily care, they also perform most of the tasks of vaccination," said Glenn Hickman, President of Hickman's Family Farm. "Their proper care today ensures an uninterrupted food supply tomorrow. It has been our family's privilege to help thousands of inmates learn life skills that keep them productive members of society, well after they leave this program."

The inmates, from Perryville, are classified as minimum custody, which means they represent a low risk to the public and staff. This is the same classification of inmates that have been working at this location for years. These inmates will be closely monitored and supervised by correctional officers and Hickman's at all times. They will be housed in one location, with all necessary accommodations and security measures. Once the declared COVID-19 emergency has passed, these inmates will return to their housing location at Perryville.

"Our Department is focused on ensuring the health and safety of all inmates, officers and staff," said ADCRR Director David Shinn. "The decision to temporarily house inmates at Hickman's is necessary to ensure a stable food supply while also protecting public health and the health of those in our custody."

ADCRR currently has no known confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus. Six inmates have been tested for the virus and results are pending. We continue to take proactive measures to protect our staff and inmates against any potential spread within the prisons, which includes reducing and suspending work crews that work outside the prison complexes.